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The Bulletin on the English Sparrow, published by the Department of Agriculture in 1889, showed that none of the region south of Monterey had been invaded.

When I first came to Portland in 1887, I didn't find an Englisher in the city. The bird was unknown here. The first pair likely came in the following year; for in the spring of 1889, I found a pair had reared a family about an ivy-covered house on Fourth and Pine streets. Since that time I have watched the population of the city grow till there is hardly a street that isn't overcrowded from the river to the hills.

The most unique example of sparrow nest-building we found one year when we discovered an Englisher in possession of a hornet's nest. The hornets had built up under the projecting eaves of the front porch of a cottage, just beside the bracket. I don't know whether the hornets left voluntarily or with the aid of the sparrows. The birds entered the nest thru the triangular hole in the bracket and had pulled out a part of the comb and replaced it with grass and feathers. As the young sparrows grew I expected to see the bottom drop out of the nest, but it didn't; it lasted for a second brood.

*Portland, Oregon.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Vermilion Flycatcher at Santa Barbara.**—On the 15th of March, 1907, on the Modoc Road west of Santa Barbara, I came upon a Vermilion Flycatcher. It was catching insects after its manner, perching between whiles upon the fence posts or the wire, and now and then betaking itself for a little to the top of a neighboring oak. It seemed but yesterday, tho it was four years ago, that I had seen my first bird of this kind (the first of many) doing the same thing, with the same phoebe-like flirt of its tail, from a wire fence at Tucson, Arizona. Here, as there, the bird was very "observable", and I stayed with it for fifteen minutes or more, admiring its brilliant color, and in my enthusiasm pointing it out to a passing school boy, to whom I lent my twelve-power field-glass for an observation. "Yes," he said, when I inquired if he had "got it"; "yes, it is red and everything."

This, I understand from the Editor of THE CONDOR, is at least one of the northernmost records for the species in California.—BRADFORD TORREY, *Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts.*

**Where Does the Western Boundary Line Run for the Arizona Quail?**—I recently made a trip from Mecca, California, around the western shore of the so-called Salton Sea to Calexico, on New River, and at that place we crossed to Lower California. We went thru the pass at the north end of the Cocopah range, into and down the valley that lies between the Cocopah and Coast Ranges for about 70 miles. We more than circled the former range without once getting out of the living ground of *Lophortyx gambeli*. How much further west or south they live I do not know, but would much like to. Having found them on the west side of the Cocopahs I was not, of course, surprised to find them east of it. Kindly enlighten me thru THE CONDOR.—HERBERT BROWN, *Tucson, Arizona.*

**Notes from Clipperton and Cocos Islands.**—In looking over "The Birds of Clipperton and Cocos Islands," by Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller, on my return from the Galapagos in 1902, I noticed the absence from their list of several species that were present on the islands when our party called. We stopped at Clipperton Island November 19, 1901, and went ashore for several hours. I saw on Clipperton Island in addition to the birds seen by Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller: *Squatarola squatarola* (Black-bellied Plover), two seen; *Numenius hudsonicus* (Hudsonian Cur-

lew), one seen; *Plegadis* (?) (A black Ibis), one seen; *Fulica americana* (American Coot), two seen feeding under banks on the edge of the lagoon. Several hundred ducks were seen, the majority being of the following species: *Dafila acuta* (Pintail); *Mareca Americana* (Bald pate); *Querquedula discors* (Blue-winged Teal); *Spatula clypeata* (Shoveller); and a single *Fuligula vallisneria* (Canvasback). Tho several flocks flew quite near me in circling about the lagoon the only one shot was a Shoveller and this one was only winged and was not secured. *Sula variegata*—Amongst the thousands of Blue-faced Boobies, two of this species were seen and one of them, a female, shot. The other seemed to be paired with a Blue-faced Booby.

On Cocos Island, January 26, 1902: *Ægialitis semipalmata* (Semipalmated Plover), four seen; *Streptilas interpres* (Turnstone), six seen; *Butorides virescens* (Green Heron), one shot; *Nyctanassa violacea* (Yellow-crowned Night Heron), two seen; *Querquedula discors* (Blue-wing Teal), one shot, two more seen; *Sula variegata* (Variegated booby), two seen; *Falco peregrinus* (Duck Hawk), one seen.—R. H. BECK, *Monterey, California*.

**The Mew Gull in Southern California.**—On the 14th of April, 1907, I secured a female specimen of *Larus canus* on Alamitos Bay, Los Angeles County, California.

The gull was resting on the mud flat exposed by low tide; it was standing alone, about fifteen feet from a large flock of American Herring and Western Gulls and was quite easily approached by boat, altho the Herring and Western Gulls were noisily leaving the vicinity.

This is the only individual of this species that I have seen this season, altho I have spent almost the entire time on the Los Angeles County coast and adjacent islands, since January 1st.—C. B. LINTON, *Long Beach, California*.

**Magnolia Warbler in Oregon.**—Mr. William Warner of Salem, Oregon, says that in January one of his friends brought in a Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica maculosa*) which was picked up dead in his front yard. He thought the bird had killed itself by flying against the window. The person who found the bird reported seeing a small band of these Warblers about the locality. I do not know of any other record of this bird in Oregon.—W. L. FINLEY, *Portland, Oregon*.

**The Horned Grebe in Southern California.**—On the morning of November 4, 1906, while rowing in San Diego Bay, near the Hotel Del Coronado, I heard a shot from a yacht nearby and noticed the yachtsmen put about and pick up a bird from the water, glance at it and throw it back.

I was immediately upon the scene and gathered in the specimen which proved to be a beautiful adult female Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*).

There were several hundred American Eared Grebes in the bay, but I observed no other *C. auritus* during my four months stay in this locality. I have since taken a juvenile female *C. auritus* in Alamitos Bay, Los Angeles County, January 14, 1907.—C. B. LINTON, *Long Beach, California*.

**A New Record for Colorado.**—In "May or June, 1900", Mr. B. G. Voigt (deceased) shot a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) between Palmer Lake and Monument, Colorado. In "May 1902", he shot two more specimens of the same species on the Arkansas River about 2 miles east of Pueblo, Colorado. I examined and identified these birds and while doing so was struck with the paleness of the bill, corresponding to the fall and winter plumage of this species. I thereupon sent one of the birds to Mr. Robert Ridgway, who writes that there is in the National Museum collections a specimen in this plumage which was taken as early as July 28, and who thinks that the dates, "May" and "June", as given to me, are certainly erroneous. I cannot vouch for these dates, nor is it possible now to confirm the note which Mr. Voigt gave me. This establishes another new species for Colorado.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colorado*.

**Mexican Black Hawk in California.**—On the 26th of November, 1906, I secure ad male *Urubitinga anthracina* within the city limits of National City, San Diego County, California. The hawk was making a second attempt to capture a tame duck on the shore of a pond about twenty-five yards from the Wallace racing stables of this city, and was shot by one of the stable hands, I being present at the time.

This is the third of this species killed in this locality during 1905-06.—C. B. LINTON, *Long Beach, California*.

**An Interesting Occurrence of the Canyon Wren.**—On the 23rd of November, 1906, I took a Canyon Wren, *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*, near Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. This is a prairie country about seventeen miles west of the Kansas line and hardly the place where one would expect to find this bird. The exact locality was near Smoky Creek, six miles north of the town. There is a small outcrop there of coarse sandstone and conglomerate, and it was about this that I found the bird. The weather was very cold and raw. Mr. C. E. Aiken considers it an unusual thing for the species to be so far out on the plains and thinks it must have been migrating. I know of no record for the bird so far east in Colorado.—EDWARD R. WARREN, *Colorado Springs, Colorado*.

**A Bit Too Previous.**—Spring fever, as it is commonly called, when a fellow just feels like breaking the traces and getting far away from the strenuous wear and tear of civilization, I believe comes with the first hint of spring to every nature lover who is closed up in an office.

It comes in many different forms. Sometimes it is a smell, sometimes a picture, or a look into the pages of an old field book. Or perhaps a day's trip thru the foothills will bring reminiscences of the freedom and serenity of getting far into the mountains away from the city's strife.

But here is an instance when spring came, as it seemed to me at the time, in midwinter. The 22nd of February being a holiday, I was looking over some bird skins in our log cabin at San Anselmo, when the familiar squeaky notes of a Hummer brought me to the door to see what might be doing. Everything was still, and seeing some Juncos close by, I imagined I heard them and not the Hummer, their notes being at times very much the same—especially when the Hummer is poised in the air at some flower uttering those sharp short notes. However I leaned against the door and waited. Back came the little green Anna with her mate. They dropped to the ground under a laurel, the male spreading out his gorgeous neck feathers and making quite a love scene with Anna. Finally like a shot he went his way, and she lost herself ten feet above the spot in the laurel. I walked over to the tree and after a diligent search discovered her sitting on a frail little nest about half built. She soon became restless at my gaze and left the nest, but soon came back with a large piece of cotton, tucking it under her breast with her bill and pulling it vigorously with her feet into place. Noting how roughly she bustled around in the nest, I was somewhat astonished when later in the day I peered into it and saw a set of eggs, one dark in incubation, and, as it proved, this must have been laid about the 12th of February.

I have never come across anything just like this in the nesting habits of birds, but the Hummers being early nesters and on account of the rains, I judge in this instance it was a case of sit close to save the nest and contents. Hence the one egg incubated and the other perfectly fresh.

Being the earliest date at which I have ever found a Hummer nesting, I feel safe in saying that San Anselmo has a record for early Hummers' nests, and at the same time the discovery has relieved me of the indescribable craving for spring.—H. H. SHELTON, *San Francisco, California*.